



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- Over the past few months HLSEM has formed a committee to review and try to spur preparedness activities in Iowa's K-12 schools. See article on page 2.
- The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will be hosting the Third Annual Governor's Annual Homeland Security Conference July 18-20. Find out who the keynote speakers will be on page 3.
- The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program will be hosting training near Iowa. For more details, see article on page 5.

Severe Weather Awareness Week Activities Slated for April 3-7

Severe weather activity started early this year with reports of over 100 tornadoes striking the Midwest over the March 11 weekend. This should serve as a reminder for how important it is to prepare in advance for severe weather.

Governor Tom Vilsack, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service have declared April 3-7 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa.



One of many homes destroyed in Woodward during last November's tornado outbreak in central Iowa.

A tornado drill will be held on April 5 with a watch issued at 10:00 a.m., a warning at 10:15 and concluding at 10:30. In the event of severe weather on April 5, the drill will be rescheduled for April 6. (*Continued on page 2*)

HLSEM on the Move

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff at the Hoover Building will be moving to Camp Dodge, perhaps as early as the middle of April. The move will place all HLSEM staff much closer to the state emergency operations center at the Joint Forces Headquarters and other Department of Public Defense support functions such as the State Fiscal Office.

"My ultimate goal is to consolidate the Division at the State EOC," stressed Administrator David Miller. "This gets us one step closer to that vision."

HLSEM staff from Hoover will move to building W-4, which currently houses Iowa Communications Network (ICN) staff and equipment. It is right across the street from the Division's radiological calibration shop.

There are a myriad of details to work out with the ICN and other state agencies involved with the shuffle that will impact over 400 state employees. A very aggressive schedule has been established with the week of April 17 set as the move date for HLSEM, but that date is still being negotiated. Look for more details in a future issue of *Secure and Prepared*.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

(Continued from page 1)

The following topics will be highlighted during Severe Weather Awareness Week:

April 3: NOAA Weather Radio

April 4: Severe Thunderstorms

April 5: Tornadoes - drill

April 6: Heat

April 7: Family Preparedness

HLSEM will highlight the completion of the state's NOAA Weather Radio expansion project, which enables Iowa residents to receive weather warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day. Through the help of public and private partners, 23 transmitters have been installed over the past nine years.

HLSEM will hold a free, random drawing for 175 NOAA Weather Radios now thru April 10 via our www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site. This Web site contains useful information on severe weather preparedness and background information on completion of Iowa's NOAA Weather Radio expansion project. A NOAA Weather Radio Project Partner Recognition Event is also scheduled for 10 a.m., April 3 at Camp Dodge.

Workshops for Local Officials Coming Soon

The League of Cities will be conducting six Municipal Leadership Academy (MLA) Workshops throughout the state beginning March 30 and finishing on April 27. As part of these workshops, HLSEM, along with six county emergency management coordinators, will be presenting the "Local Officials' Role in Homeland Security and Emergency Management." This portion of the training will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the local elected and appointed officials in disaster and everyday situations. Requirements and resources for disaster planning and training will also be addressed.

These Workshops are designed for those looking for more in-depth information on the challenges facing cities and local governments. These sessions are appropriate for newly elected or veteran city officials, as well as appointed city officials. Participants will hear how having an effective emergency management program can benefit them and will get the chance to network with other city officials and hear common concerns.

For dates and locations, visit <http://www.iowaleague.org/Workshops/MLA.aspx?id=25>.

School Safety Committee Meets

Over the past few months HLSEM has formed a committee to review and try to spur preparedness activities in Iowa's K-12 schools. The committee has representatives from a wide range of disciplines including the insurance industry, county coordinators, a retired school principal, staff from the Heartland AEA, the transportation safety director of the Iowa School Board Association and state staff from HLSEM, Public Safety and Education.

The committee has brainstormed about the problems and issues associated with school preparedness – mainly that there is a lack of time and resources for many schools to complete a comprehensive preparedness program.

At the last meeting the committee decided to move forward with two main missions:

- Develop and conduct a survey to determine overall preparedness activities in the state.
- Development of a Web site that will provide information and overall preparedness tools. There are a number of excellent Web sites with plans, training and exercise tools.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact Bret Voorhees at 515-281-4007.

Keynote Speaker's Announced for Conference

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will be hosting the Third Annual Governor's Annual Homeland Security Conference July 18-20 at the Polk County Convention Center in Des Moines. This year's theme is *Learning from Yesterday, Planning for Tomorrow*.

Keynote speakers on the first day will be U.S. Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman, U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Dennis Reimers (retired), and State Epidemiologist for the Iowa Department of Public Health Dr. Patricia Quinlisk. Topics will range from lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina to pandemic influenza.



Breakout sessions on the second day will cover a variety of topics including agroterrorism, Iowa's pandemic influenza plan, catastrophic planning, Iowa's Disaster Medical Assistance Team's (DMAT) deployment during Hurricane Katrina and many others.

Attendees will also have an opportunity to visit the many exhibitors that will be on hand. By doing so, participants will be eligible for an exciting door prize.

Lodging is available at the downtown Des Moines Marriott. Call 1-800-514-4681 for reservations. If you have questions, e-mail us at governorsconf@hlsem.state.ia.us or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000. Look for more information in our next newsletter concerning registration.

Training Opportunities

HLSEM is offering an Emergency Planning Course April 17-18 and a New Coordinator Course April 19-20. To register and to find out about other course offerings, please visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Also, don't forget to check out National Fire Administration and Emergency Management Institute course vacancies at <http://training.fema.gov/> under "Quick Links" on the left side of the screen. For more information or help in registering for these courses, contact Dave Hempen at 515-281-6481.

WITCC Offers Emergency/Disaster Degree

Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) now offers a specialized degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. This program is designed to fill a critical and growing need for emergency and disaster management personnel in the public and private sector. This program will prepare students for positions in the disaster management profession or to transfer to a four-year college or university.

Students obtaining this degree are prepared for employment in government agencies, private corporations, industry, and educational and health care institutions. Students with prior training or certifications in similar fields may receive college credits toward their degree. Students must complete a minimum of 69 credits to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Emergency & Disaster Management.

For an online application, visit www.witcc.edu. For more information, contact Denise Brink at 712-274-8733, ext. 1673 or e-mail EDM@witcc.edu. WITCC has campuses in Sioux City, Cherokee, and Denison.

NIMS Top Five Most Frequently Asked Questions

The NIMS Integration Center's five most frequently asked questions focus on required NIMS training, lost or delayed NIMS/ICS training certifications from the Emergency Management Institute, and NIMCAST temporary passwords. Be sure and check the FAQ site, which is directly accessible from the NIMS homepage at www.fema.gov/nims. It is updated frequently based on your questions.

1) Who must take NIMS and ICS training?

All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

Entry Level

FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction, ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent

First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors

IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Basic ICS or its equivalent

Middle Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.

IS-700, IS-800 NRP, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300

Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers

IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300 and ICS-400

2) What about elected officials?

The NIMS Integration Center strongly recommends that all elected officials who will be interacting with multiple jurisdictions and agencies during an emergency incident at the minimum, complete IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction and ICS-100: Introduction to ICS. These courses provide a basic understanding of the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System. Everyone directly involved in managing an emergency should understand the command reporting structures, common terminology and roles and responsibilities inherent in a response operation.

3) What training do I need to be an ICS instructor?

All lead ICS instructors should have training and experience in adult education and have served as incident commander or in a command staff or general staff position. An instructor's qualifications must be verified by the agency sponsoring the training. Specific requirements for ICS-100 through ICS-400 are as follows:

ICS-100 Lead and Unit Instructors: Successful completion of ICS-100, ICS-200 and IS-700.

ICS-200 Lead Instructor: Successful completion of ICS-300. Unit Instructors: Successful completion of ICS-200.

ICS-300 Lead Instructor: Successful completion of ICS-400, served as Incident Commander or in a command staff or general staff position in an incident that went beyond one operational period or required a written incident action plan. Unit Instructors: Successful completion of ICS-300, served as incident commander or in a command staff or general staff position; or, have specialized knowledge and experience appropriate for the audience, such as public health or public works.

ICS-400 Instructors: Successful completion of ICS-400 and IS-800 National Response Plan. Lead Instructor: Served as incident commander or in a command staff or general staff position in an incident that required multi-agency coordination and went beyond one operational period or required a written incident action plan. Unit Instructors: Served as incident commander or in a command staff or general staff position in an incident that went beyond one operational period or required a written incident action plan; or, have specialized knowledge and experience for the audience, such as public health or public works.

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HLSEM Mission

To support, coordinate, and maintain state and local homeland security and emergency management activities in order to establish sustainable communities and assure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

NIMS Top Five Questions

(Continued from page 4)

4) I still have not received my IS-700 training certificate. Who can I call?

Contact the Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study Office at 301-447-1200.

5) I've tried logging on to NIMCAST and my password doesn't work. What can I do?

If you have received a temporary password, you will need to log into your account within 24 hours and change your password. If it has been more than 24 hours since you received your password, you can have a new password e-mailed to you by clicking on the "Generate a new temporary password" option on the NIMCAST login page. Remember, new passwords must be at least eight characters long and contain at least one of each of the following: lower case character (a-z); upper case character (A-Z); special character (!, @, #, \$, %, etc.); and a digit (0-9). Be sure to input your password exactly, since it is case sensitive.

VIPS Training in the Area

The national Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program will be hosting training in Omaha, Nebraska on April 5, 2006 and in Chicago, Illinois on June 8, 2006. The training is geared towards law enforcement personnel that are interested in starting or expanding a volunteer program. There is no cost to attend the training and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. In addition, participants traveling more than 50 miles may be eligible for a \$150 travel stipend.

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program is managed and implemented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in partnership with and on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice and the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps. The program's goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers.

The VIPS training will provide attendees with an understanding of both the theories and practices related to developing a law enforcement volunteer program. The training is intended to be a hands-on experience and will also assist in building a peer-to-peer network. Please see <http://www.policevolunteers.org/events/> for an agenda, more detailed information, and to register.

Kirkwood Conducts ICS Classes

Kirkwood is conducting Incident Command System (ICS) classes for industry until May. If a jurisdiction would like to set up the training, please contact Marsha at 1-800-464-6874.

Personnel Update

Congratulations to **Beckie Barker** on her promotion to Budget Analyst II in HLSEM's Grants Bureau. Beckie has been with the Division since October of 2003 as an Account Tech III.